

BYLAWS OF FRESH VISIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Article I: Name

The name of this church is Fresh Visions Community Church (Springfield, Illinois); hereinafter in the bylaws referred to as "the church" or "this church."

Article II: Purpose

(Mission)

To clearly present the message of Jesus Christ in words and action that our community and world will be transformed.

(Core Values)

Fulfill God's command of evangelism and discipleship through family oriented fellowship and outreach

Vibrant and victorious worship of Christ, the Savior

Christ centered preaching and teaching

Consistently live according to biblical principles as empowered by the Holy Spirit

(BELIEFS AND TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH)

- 1 Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are inspired of God without error in the original writings and are to be regarded as supreme authority (Mathew 4:4; II Timothy 3:16)
- 2 There is one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mathew 28:18-19)
- 3 Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of His virgin mother and sinless (Luke 1:34-35)
- 4 We are created in the image of God. Through Adam's sin, all are born with a sinful nature (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23)
- 5 The Lord Jesus Christ was crucified and died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He was bodily resurrected and ascended into heaven (Mathew 28:5-7)
- 6 Through repentance of sins and trusting in Jesus as Savior, we are born again by the Holy Spirit and become eternal children of God and promised a heavenly home with Him (I John 1:9; Romans 10:9; John 3:16; John 14:2-3)
- 7 Those who die without a relationship with Jesus Christ are eternally lost and will suffer eternal punishment (Mathew 25:45-46; II Thessalonians 1:8-9)

- 8 Believers should be baptized in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. Water baptism symbolizes Spirit baptism, identification with Christ, His church, His death, His resurrection and newness of life in Him. We believe in baptism by immersion (Mathew 3:6; Mathew 28:19-20; Romans 6:1-4)

The church recognizes and accepts the Holy Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God and is to be regarded as the supreme authority for faith and practice.

Article III: Membership

Membership in this local church shall be open to anyone who professes personal faith in Jesus Christ for eternal salvation. The church urges believers to receive water baptism by immersion after conversion in obedience to God's Word (Mat. 3:6; 28:19,20; Rom. 6:1-4). Members are expected to attend teaching orientation(s) of church, regularly attend worship service(s), be active in a ministry of this assembly, support the church regularly based on the principles of tithes, offerings, and sacrificial giving, submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the church, and accept the pastoral leadership as God's overseer of the church (Acts 20:28). Each member is considered a part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, belonging to God (I Pet. 2:9).

Article IV: Meetings of Members

There shall be at least an annual meeting of the congregation. There may be other meetings throughout the year as deemed necessary by the pastoral leadership of the congregation. The Senior Pastor shall serve as moderator at such meetings unless he delegates to another. The Senior Pastor shall prepare and/or approve agenda items for such meetings.

Article V: Church Government and Officers of the Church

Section 1--The Chief Shepherd

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd and Supreme Head of this congregation. It is before Him that all other leadership must bow and submit to His will (Mat. 23:8-10; Eph. 1:22, 23; I Peter 5:4). He communicates His will for the church through His Word, the Bible. He gives additional guidance by means of the specific leading of the Holy Spirit who indwells the heart of each believer. He also shepherds the flock through the leaders of the church to whom He has given specific gifts and responsibilities.

Section 2--The Senior Pastor

- a. The qualifications of the Senior Pastor are those given in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. He must be spiritually and educationally qualified to lead the church as an under-shepherd of Jesus Christ, to preach, teach, train, and to provide leadership as the primary overseer and spokesperson of the church.

- b. As the chief administrator of the church, the Senior Pastor has the authority over the operations of the church. By virtue of his office, he serves as ex officio member of all the church ministries.
- c. The Senior Pastor shall have the right to determine the need and the hiring of additional church staff. Valuable input from the Finance committee and/or Ministry Advisory Team should be considered for staff compensation.
- d. The Senior Pastor is authorized to fill pulpit with person of his choice in his absence or approve other ministers/speakers for a given event or service.
- e. Through prayerful consideration of any disciplinary requirement of a member, the Senior Pastor is responsible for ensuring the proper process has been followed to restore a person in love using the guidance in Gal. 6:1 and Math. 18:15-18.

Section 3—The Ministry Advisory Team (MAT)

- a. The MAT will serve as Fresh Visions Community Church initial officers. This ministry shall include men and women. There will also be representation from the finance committee and adult representation from the youth ministry. All MAT members will be members of the church. As leaders, members are expected to demonstrate a lifestyle consistent with biblical teachings and embrace mission and core values of church. The initial number of MAT members will be four (4), which will include a Coach (leader) and Secretary of MAT. The number of members can increase based on the need of the church.
- b. Initial members will be appointed by the Senior Pastor and confirmed by the congregation. Members may serve for three (3) years or until their successors are appointed. Members may be appointed by the Senior Pastor and confirmed by the congregation to serve another three (3) additional years. After serving six (6) consecutive years, the person must remain off the MAT for at least 1 year.
- c. The MAT will assist the pastor in vision sharing and provide assistance of the visions becoming reality. Members will be expected to assist with evaluating congregational, community, and ministry needs of the church. In cooperation with the church and pastor, this ministry shall have trustee type responsibilities including authorizing legal documents related to FVCC ministry.
- d. MAT members have a fiduciary responsibility to the church, thereby serving as accountability partners with the Senior Pastor.
- e. The initial MAT will be responsible for approval of compensation of Senior Pastor, which may include salary, benefits, bonuses, and increases considering the financial health of church, pastor's education and qualifications, and scriptural basis, "a laborer is worthy of his hire" (Luke 10:7).
I Cor. 9:14 further declares, "Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel."

Additional officers may be added in the future as deemed necessary by the pastoral leadership and lawful. MAT will be apprised of need and decision to add new officers. Additional officers may include but not be limited to pastoral staff team and deacon ministry. Responsibilities of the Ministry Advisory Team will be realigned or shared at such time as needed to complement additional officers of the church.

Article VI: Amendments of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended or revised by a two-third (2/3) majority vote of the officers of the church present and voting at any regular or special called meeting. Although the entire congregation as a whole will not vote on church policies, officers of the church are to receive input and allow for ideas from the congregation regarding amendments. A copy of such proposed amendments or revisions should be distributed to the membership at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

Article VII: Dissolution

A. Should Fresh Visions Community Church dissolve, the officers, after the payment of all the liabilities of the church, shall dispose all assets to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or religious purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.

B. No part of the net earning of the church will inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in our organizing document and our application for federal tax exemption. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) 2 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Adopted this 18th day of October, 2005

_____ Roy Newman, Pastor

_____ Rickey Holmes, Ministry Advisory Team Coach (Leader)

_____ Janet D. Gully, Ministry Advisory Team Member

_____ Nina M. Harris, Ministry Advisory Team Member

_____ Jacqueline L. Newman, Ministry Advisory Team Member